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5. Summary (2-3 lines indicating the major subject(s) of the document): Information planning document (for Press Coverage/information release) for the SPERT-I Destruct Test. Covers general policy, schedules, proposed press releases and timing, observer program/observation point, photo coverage.												
6. Name and telephone number of person completing form: Burton R. Baldwin (208) 525-0203	7. Organization: Lockheed Idaho Technologies Co.	8. Date: March 22, 1995										

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Idaho Operations Office

HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS

RECORDS PROVENANCE FORM

REPOSITORY NAME	INEL
COLLECTION NAME	SPECIAL POWER EXCURSION REACTOR TEST (SPERT)
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DOCUMENT TITLE: SPERT-1 DESTRUCT TEST INFORMATION PLAN

CROSS REFERENCES:

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

2 by 1/2 inch - 1/2 inch

File: August 6
S. T. M.
D.T.

✓ SNAPTRON Y10A-1
quite certain Y10A-2
Y10A-3
(?) Y10A-4

Beryllium Reflected
" " Extensive
Physics + D.T.
Water reflected - D.T.
" " Physics
- + D.T. (?)

Critical Y10A-1 Aug 9
→ Static Physics " " end on Sept 1

Critical Y10A-3 ~ ~~Sept~~ Oct.
D.T. " " Nov. (15)

Transient ^{stepwise series} program Y10A-1 Jan to July 1966

Program Y10A-2 Aug to March

Program Y10A-4 June '65 to March '66

REPOSITORY INEL
COLLECTION SPERT
D-10419 FRC# 934971
BOX No. 434 850067
4-2-1-5-36 SNAP Press Release
FOLDER SPERT-I Destruction Test
information Plan

SPERT-I DESTRUCT TEST
INFORMATION PLAN

1. • General Policy: A modified information program on the SPERT-I destruct tests will be conducted to inform the general public before the destructive approach series begins; also to assure the public that all safety precautions are being taken. Additional information will be provided, upon request, for members of the news media, representatives of industry, government observers, and U. S. and foreign scientific and technical personnel. An observer program will be established for media representatives asking to view the final test, as well as other official observers, with the understanding that the possibility for delays due to weather conditions is fully realized, and also, that any one test in this series could destroy the core beyond repair, abortively ending the series. Because of the meteorological conditions required for these tests, it will be impossible to predict very closely the date of the final test.
2. Purpose: To avoid the remote possibility of being placed in a defensive situation should the destructive excursion be sufficiently violent to attract public attention or otherwise generate rumors resulting in media inquiries. Also, to be prepared in event of other-than-official requests to observe the destruct tests.
3. Schedule:
 - a. Fill-in Tests and Ready Area -- June 1 to August 31, 1962:

Repeat of a number of kinetic tests (including a few exploratory tests where the damage threshold is crossed) to check and complete the instrumentation and measurement system for the final destructive test series.

b. Destructive Series -- September 1 to October 30, 1962:

All tests in this series will be conducted with the meteorological controls, special operating procedures and personnel controls appropriate to a violently destructive test. Hopefully, five or six core damage tests can be conducted in this series by conducting successively shorter period tests, increasing core damage, and replacing fuel assemblies and instrumentation for the succeeding tests. The Commission will be briefed daily on the progress of this portion of the program. Any one test in this series might destroy the core beyond repair and will thus terminate the destructive test program. If the onset of adverse weather precludes continuation of the destructive series in September and October, it may be delayed until spring. Barring unexpected difficulties, this series will terminate after four or five tests by wilfully conducting an excursion test that will produce major core damage together with a violent energy release.

c. Clean-up, Disassembly, and Inspection -- November 1962 to March 1963:

Major components of the destroyed core will be removed to a hot shop for study. The reactor area and the reactor facility will be decontaminated and restored to normal operating conditions.

4. Proposed Action:

- a. Issue a brief and general news announcement after approval of the series but before the first test, with a reassuring statement on the safety of the tests. Such tests are not new to the NRTS, what with some 16 previous fuel element burn-ups, reactor meltdowns, and deliberate nuclear excursions, including the intentional destruction of Borax-I in July 1954 with no resultant exposures

of significance on or off the site. Therefore, any undue heraldry of this test, when it was not done for Borax-I, would tend to imply, per se, a greater seriousness than actually exists.

- b. As a result of the first announcement, it is anticipated that a few magazine and newspaper science writers, plus members of the local media, will ask to observe the final destruct test. Such requests will be honored, with an explanation as to the uncertainties implicit both in scheduling and performance of the various tests, and the possible occurrence of an unspectacular anticlimax. Those who definitely want to be on hand will be made aware that several days may be spent waiting for proper meteorological conditions. Those desiring a last-minute notice must realize that possibly only one to two hours notice can be given with certainty that the test will be run.
- c. Withhold issuance of the main destruct test news announcement until just before the final test, unless queries necessitate an earlier announcement. It will reassure the public, reiterate the program's purpose, and describe briefly what is expected to happen when the reactor is deliberately destroyed.
- d. Hold a briefing and debriefing at the observation point, if needed, on the day of the final test for news media observers to provide background and answer questions (particularly if anything should go wrong). Fact sheets will be distributed at this time, if not issued earlier.
- e. Release announcement on the success of the destructive test, mentioning any significant variations from what was expected.

5. Observer Program: Expected among the observers will be members of news media, industry representatives, government officials, and U. S. and foreign scientific and technical personnel.
- a. Requests from news media representatives will be handled by the IDO Information Office staff and Division of Public Information in Washington, D. C. All types of news coverage--newspaper, radio, television, photography--will be permitted from the observation point, but none will be solicited.
 - b. Honoring of requests or invitations for industry representatives, government observers, and scientific and technical personnel will be handled by the IDO Technical Operations staff and Commission staff members in Washington, D.C. All such visits will be coordinated with IDO Technical Operations.
6. Proposed Observation Point: The SPERT-IV reactor building and adjacent grounds will be used as the observation point. SPERT-IV will not be in operation at the time of the SPERT-I destructive test.
- a. SPERT-IV is on higher ground one mile southeast and crosswind from SPERT-I.
 - b. Television monitoring screens will be set up in the SPERT-IV building for viewers wishing to get a closer look than provided by the one-mile, cross-country view.
7. Photographic Coverage (Still and Movie): Will be provided by NRTS photographers for response to requests from news media not represented and to backstop those present.

8. Transportation: Consideration will be given to providing transportation by government vehicle to the SPERT area from Idaho Falls, a distance of about 50 miles. Since one-half mile of the normal departure route from SPERT-IV is in the direction of SPERT-I, an alternate egress route across the desert away from SPERT-I will be considered for use in event of emergency.

9. Procedures:

- a. All SPERT-I destruct test announcements will be issued only by the Idaho Operations Office to emphasize the comparative routineness of such tests at the NRTS.
- b. Announcement of the apparent results of the actual destruct test, will be issued immediately by IDO without DPI clearance; also of any emergency situation that may be reported by media representatives firsthand. Otherwise, all proposed public announcements will be reviewed by DPI prior to release. Notification copies of all uncleared announcements will be TWXed to DPI, Washington.
- c. Photographic prints and copy negatives of the actual destruct test will be airmailed immediately to DPI, Washington.
- d. If requests from industry representatives, government observers, U. S. and foreign scientific and technical personnel, and news media representatives warrant, government bus transportation will be provided from Idaho Falls Headquarters to SPERT-IV (assuming there will be sufficient lead time to permit doing so). If only local media representatives are on hand, one or more government vehicles of lesser size will be used for control purposes and to avoid the possibility of contaminating private cars.

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